# A Copye of a verye fyne and vvytty letter sent from the ryght Reuerende Levves Lippomanus byshop of Verona in Italy, and late Legate in Polone, from the moste holy and blessed father Pope Paule the fourth, and from his moste holy sea of Rome.

Translated out of the Italyan language by Michael Throckmerton.

Lippomano

K

# Curtigiane of Rome.

1556.

# To the Reader.

THis letter of the byshop of Verona gētle Reader, though it be short in wordes, yet if thou cōsider it wel, it is long & pithy in matter. For it plainly displayeth the practises not onely of the Popishe Prelates, wherby they haue procured and propped vp their kyngdome so longe to continue, and what deuises they haue to make it (if it possibly might be) euerlasteng: but also of all other wicked that seke empire and glory in this worlde, not caring nor passing how vntuskly they come by it. But God (against whose glory, this kingdome of Antichrist is no lesse contrary than the kingdome of the deuill him self, and who will not the euyll to come by, or at the leaste long enioy hys desyre) myndeth, as thou maist perceaue, thend of this wicked kingdom of Antichrist and wold that al other wicked mēs purposes shuld be letted. For he maketh (as thou seest, the subtile, maugre their teeth) to open their owne subtilte, & the wicked to bring his own wickednes, so that knowing the one, thou mayst easily iudge al. Wherfore if thou wilt not shew thy selfe ouermuche ingrate, thou arte prouoked to confesse his greate mercy toward his poore shepe, and to praise him for his loue and fauour toward thee. And onelesse the nobilitie and people in euery countrey will shewe them selfe vtterly voyd of reason, they wyl (now God hath begon) put to their handes & wittes to pul their neckes from vnder the tyranny of the bishop of Rome, God and mans enemy) and such wicked practisers & not willingly put their owne neckes into halters, but rather defend thē selues, according to Godds law, & the law of nature, th[illegible] suffre thē selues be wilfully murthered. Th[illegible] God for his gr[illegible] shut not thine eies against [illegible] serue hym,

he will not fayle the in thy nede, but ꝓsper what so euer thou shalt take in hãde, hauing his feare & glorye before thyne eies. Farewell.

## To the moste reuerende Reynold Cardinall Pole Legate a Latere, Archebyshop of Cantor. Porcionare of Wynchester, &c. Metropolitane and primate of all Englande.

ALbeit I doubt not but your grace ꝓcedeth in ordinarye practise as other your complices & colegees doo, for the maintenance & ꝓpping vp of your ꝓlacy & Papisticall kyngdom, yet I thought good to aduertise your grace (by this translated letter folowyng) of the ꝓcedinges ꝓceding of your dery frend ỹ bishop of Verona, legate in Polone, who although he hath had sinistre succesſe in the Popes affaires in that realme by reason of ouerlerned Princes, & men of ouer much experience in ꝓlates ꝓcedinges, yet if his trusted frendes had not disclosed his secretes, there had ben better hope of his enterꝓtise. And now lyke as the displayeng of his secretes in sundry tongues hath dissolued his doinges, and marred the Popes market for euer, not onely in Polone and Prusia, but also in sondry other places and dominions where this ꝓcedinges is vsed, and no hope of

A. ii. redresse,

redzesse, onles bribing helpe, ye must your grace with the rest of your Englishe prelates vse faire woordes, familiar entertainmente and liberalitie towardes the nobles of Englande in tyme, and yet where brybynge and bealycheare wyll not serue, you must take occasion by one pretense or other to go in, as ye haue wel begon, in choppyng of theyr heades, and hangyng vp for holydayes of the suspected fauourers of the gospell, and as nere as ye may, make the Englishe bloude thynne, namelye the gentilmen and riche people, so that when they are ones pulled vnder foote, ye maye pyll and subdue the commons at your pleasure and transpose the realme as ye lyste. And as I dout not the experienced derteritie of your handlyng the popes affaires in England in brynging the realme into hunger, misery, and dissencion, so were it to be wyshed that your Prelates and vnskilled clergye in other places, wer instructed in ỹ lyke practises with all silence and secrecy, least the vysour of hypocrisy beyng plucked of (as the bishop of Veronas vnlucky chaunce was, and your brybynge and bloudsheadyng commyng ones to lyght) cause further peryll to your states than hytherto hath ben felt.

The God of al mercy and might confound all false and wicked practysyng. Amen.

Your graces most bbble seruant M. Th.

# To the ryght honourable mayster Peter Conterini, gentylman of Vencee, at Rome.

Ryghte honourable syr, I haue dyuers tymes syth it hath pleased god to trouble me by makynge me to take in hand this enterpryse of Polone writen to your honour, as to one that both for countreyes sake, and for our olde acquaintaunce, and also for his goodnes doth vouchesafe to bee my father and protectour in my great tormentes and troubles, wherin I haue ben wrapped, prayeng you alwayes that it woulde please you to ayde me with youre authoritie (whyche is so greate with our holy fathers holines) that I may be hable to come out of this helle, and retourne to Rome, or to my church. But all the troubles paste are nothyng in respecte of those that I suffer at this presente, the whyche I can not but write vnto you, to thintent that your honour vnderstanding it, may be moued to haue compassion on my misfortune, and to doo your vttermoste to cause me to be called home, whyche I beseeche you on my knees lyftyng vp my handes. The new turmoiles wherof I write vnto you be these.

The lord Nicholas Radzuil Counte Palatin of Wilna is doubtles one of the gretest

men of power & authoritie within all the realme of Polone. And as he is also one of the chiefest that doth fauour and promote the cause of the Lutherians, so he shulde not be. Nowe I being such a mā both of nature & sure iudgement ẏ I can not (I dare not, I say) suffer ẏ the most holy sea apostolike of Rome shulde be thus rēt in pieces & railed on, as I see it euery daye rent & railed on in dede, I determined with my selfe no lōger to dissemble, but to pull of my visour, and to write vnto this lorde a playne letter as my mynde without respecte.

Neuerthelesse to colour ẏ matter the better, I fayned, ẏ one M. Adam Conarskye secretary to ẏ kinge, had saluted me by his letters, & had rehersed many frendely wordes on the behalf of his lordship. And vpon this occasion I began my letter, wherein my wittes, & makynge it as earnest and as pithy as I coulde possible: and I sente it ẏe xxi. of Februarij, at which time I was at a castell of ẏ archbishop of Gnezna called Louitz, where I also am at this present. The effect of this letter was, ẏ I admonished this lorde Coūt Palatine, how throughe the hole realme it was comonly reported, that his lordship agreed with ẏ Lutherians in all pointes. And I began to rehorse theym vnto him particularly one by one. And in the ende I exhorted him to giue

ouer & leaue these heretical opinions, for otherwise God would punisshe hym. The truth is, I touched all the hole rable of the Lutherans, and spake of their doinges, as muche as the greate and inwarde hatred I beare them could ergresse. For in dede ther is none euill, but it maye be well spoken of those villaines. This lord the Counte Palatine, who I thought seinge my letters so true and so wel proued with good reasons, shuld haue bene pulled from his practisyng with the Lutherans, made me such an answer (right honorable M. Petre) as Martin Luther him selfe wold not haue done, I do not say, vnto a man in my state (which am neuertheless a minister & legate, albeit vnworthy of our holy fathers holynesse, & of his most holy sea of Rome) but not to any cõmon person wer he neuer so vile & miserable. I would haue sent your honour a copy of the same answer, but to tell you the truth me thought it wold sound to our very great shame, if it should be redde. And therfore I tremble for very feare, least by one meanes or other it will be put forthe in print, and perchaunce translated into diuers tongues. For I knowe the cause of these heretykes wherwith God is not pleased. But it may ples your honour to heare the rest. Wherin I was in the yeare .1548. ioyned in commission with the most Reuerende than

bishop of Fano now worthyly a Cardinal & with the Reuerend of good memory, Ferentinus our holy fathers nuncio or legate in Germany, after the victory that themperor had ouer the protestantes, to bryng and recõcile y princis & people to the obedience of the sea apostolike (for so was the pretence of our ambassade, albeit it succeded not very prosperously, & we reconciled very few) there wer at that tyme prisoners to themperors maiesty John Friderike, Duke & Curfurster of Saronie, & Philip Landtgraue of Helle. Than I with my right reuerend colegues, as obedient childzen, according to our instructiõs gaue counsel to themperor and his most noble brother the kyng of Romains, that they shuld cause those two princes heades to be openly cut of, as the ringleaders and mainteynours of heretikes. For by this meanes and with this terrour an ende at length should haue ben made of all heresies in Germanye. But their maiesties thought it not best to folow such counsaile, and therefore, the matters of the sea Apostolike be in that countrey as they be: that is, they were neuer in worse case, and I see, they wyll be euery day worse & worse. And I hauyng the like commission at this present frõ out most holy father pope Paul the fourthe, haue often geuen counsaile to this most noble king of Polone, exhortyng

him that he wold cause to be cut of. viij. or x. heades of the most chiefe of those that go about to stirre vp this doctrine of the Lutherans in Polone: For this is the right way to kepe the realme cleane from heresies

It is true, ỳ I haue gyuē this cōsell to the Kinges maiestie, & I haue writted it vnto one ỳ is in great authoritie wt him, to thintēt he shuld helpe to perswade him. Nowe suche a matter of so great importance which wold haue ben kepte so secrete as euer any was, least it shuld breede more enuy & hatred vnto the most holy vicars of Christ, suche a matter I say, I feare it be disclosed & openēd abrode in euery corner. For ỳ said lord Counte Palatine hath laid it to my charge by his letters: & hauig writen it, it is no doubt but he hath spoken it, & will speke it vnto others.

Now pleseth it your honor to consider, in what case I stande, and of what mynde I maye be, and whether I haue reasonable cause to desire to be dispatched hēce. Those that be ỳ promoters of these heresies be in my & mighty. I haue done what I coulde to ridde the worlde of them. Truly ther hath bē no lack on my behalf. What thinke you ther will do towardes me if I cōtinue lōg in their eies: I cā looke for non other thā to be banned cursed railed & cried out vpō, if no worse happē. But this is ỳ greueth me most, that they will go about to spreede horrible tales abrode

against

ayenst our holy fathers holynesse, not only
in Polone, but also throughout all Germa-
ny. I wyl saye, as their maner is, that these
be the Councels that his holynes wil make:
that is, with choppynge of heades, & other
such like violences: Yea I vnderstand they
speake it all redy, and wonderfully blow it
abroode: wherby I doo perceiue a wōderful
impediment & hurt to the doing of those thin-
ges ỹ the most Reuerend and noble Cardi-
nall of Caraffa hath lately cōmitted vnto
me by his letters, that is, to let them vnder-
stond, that this their desire to make a nati-
nall councel, is a part and point of an here-
tike. And that therfore they speake not nor
thinke therof, but tary for a generall coūcel
which his holynes wyl shortly make. I say
in this now am I altogyther occupied, and
I thought I myght haue don some good in
deferrynge and prolongynge the tyme, as
his holynes desyre is: but the matter beyng
disclosed (as I haue sayd before) I can not se
but al men be against me, no man wyl here
me, all mens myndes are alienate from me
and vtterly set against me. In so much (to be
short) wer it not for these most reuerend fa-
thers, specially this most Reuerend father
the said Archbishop, who is my sainctuary,
I could not tell where to saue my lyfe, they
speake so muche euyl of me. And when they
haue nothyng to talk of, than they go about

saying

saying, that know for what cause I can not be made cardinal: as though I should be agry with God for that it hath pleased him I should be born out of lawful matrimony. I am content it hath pleased him to make me to be born a christen man, and therfore I passe not vpō that other. But this cōforteth me exceedyngly to vnderstād that ther goth about a certain letter printed in diuers tongues, wherein bicause I was assistent to the most reuerēd of good memory Cardinall Crescentius ye Legate in the councel of Trent, al thyng is imputed to me & my counsel that was done in the same councel of Trent, and specially that audience was not geuen to the Lutherans, as in dede it was not mete nor ought to be. For I confesse, that I haue alwayes ben of this opinion, that he which is out of ȳ church, ought not to be admitted to speak of matters of the churche. But those that vnderstand it on the contrary part, whan I shall speake any more of the holdyngs of a generall councell, will out of all peraduenture say to my face, that we mynd to make it suche a Councel as he counsailed & laboured to be don at Trēt: that is not to here the other parte. Your honour with your noble brethern M. Francisce (the light of the common welth of Venece) and M. Paule made so much of, and gaue so muche honor vnto our holy fathers holynes, when he was a

bare-

barefooted Frier at Venece, that his holy-
nes beyng most myndfull and thankfull I
knowe, is desirous also to requite and doo
you pleasure agayne. Wherfore I hartily
beseche your honour let it stande with your
pleasure to bestowe one droppe of the fauor
that ye are in, and cause me to bee rydde
out of these troubles and daungers. And it
may please his holynes to vnderstand, that
it is to no purpose for me to haue the doyng
of thynges here any longer, for the greate
hatred that I haue already purchased me.
Let his holynes consyder whether it be bet-
ter to send one to supply my place, or to leue
this realme without any Legate, which in
myne opinion were best, bicause he can not
be here any longer with honor & estimation

Moreouer I thinke, that when that shalbe
done, and is done, yet these men wil haue it
after their owne fantasy, and there wyll be
a great scisme, so that the nobilitie will fo-
lowe one way and one doctrine, and the by-
shops an other. And yet I can tell you, not
all the byshops, for one part of them begyn
to halte, and a lyttel thyng will make them
agree with the Counte Palatine (of whom
I write) and the others. But lette his holy-
nes doo, as it pleaseth hym, in sendynge or
not sendyng an other Legate to supply my
place, so he dispatche me hence, & that quick
ly. Who can see, who can suffer, that at the

shroftide

Shrofstide, disguysynges, makkes, & mum-
meries of monkes, fryers, and Cardinals,
shulde be openly made, to the open shame &
reproche of all the hole order of the Thur-
che, as thers hath ben hers in my time: And
who can digest these troubles, these villa-
nies, and not thynke vppon the daunger of
his lyfe? Muche good doo it hym: surely I
aknowlage my selfe to be a manne that can
not doo it. And I haue no hope that I shal-
be hable hereafter to do any good here. To
be playn I haue done as muche as was pos-
sible for me to doo, to lette the diet and par-
liamēt that shalbe kept at Bartilmew tide:
But yet notwithstandynge it will procede.
Neither shal it auaile to wast my braines &
destroy my body, suffring my self to be tost
from place to place in Couche, in company
of the said most reuerende Archbishop tho-
rough all the greater and the lesse Polone,
and so to haue brought to passe, that the no-
ble kyng hath geuen cōmandemēt contra-
ry to the determinacion & conclusion of the
last parliamēt, as I aduertised our holy fa-
thers holynes, to ỳ great grudging of ỳ ad-
uersaries. Besides I fear lest these felowes
shal cause men to come out of Germany, &
specially out of Schwitzerland half a dosin
of the greatest clerkes & most famous diui-
nes ỳ be ther, bicause it is bruted abrode, ỳ
the Pope myndeth to sende of his diuines

to

to this parliament to defend our cause. And all be it I haue bothe layd and earnestly affirmed in euery place, that they shulde not thinke, that his holynes will euer sende or consent to any such parliament, which shal be none other but a nationall councell. Yet neuertheles as farre as I can vnderstand, they mynd to cause of our enemies, diuines of other countreys to come hither: Your honour may consider, what confections these men will make, and what cõsultations and conclusions they wyll determyne agaynste vs. God helpe vs, for I se the matters be in a very euyll case. I recommende me vnto your honor. Frõ Louitz the. 20. of July. 56.

Your honours seruant Ludouicus Lippomanus byshop of Verona, the vnworthye Legate.

Postscripte.

I Am aboute to make a Conuocation of all the byshoppes and prelates of this Realm, and wyll begyn it now in Petricouia. Two thinges I hope I shall obteyn there, the one to gather a great summe of money, and I trust the popes holynes wyll be a contributour vnto it (for so hath he put me in hope) wherby we may be better able to defend our matters, aboue all thynges contentyng them, and stoppynge their mouthes which be importunately busy, and make muche trouble vs also. And

we

e haue ofte proued, that this practise is a
ery good way; The seconde, that there be
me correction of lyfe of the clergy, who
e he playne) are a very euyl example. But
s mischiefe is, that the reformation of ma-
ers is at this present to lyttell purpose, to
eserue our high estate and authorite. For
ose curssed heretikes pretende and cuye,
at the doctrine must be corrected. As for
ample: they be not contente that the pre-
es shulde be honest wyse, and discrete, but
ey wyll haue the masse al togither hurled
aye. Rather are they contented, that the
ope shuld be a modest man and of a vertu
s lyfe, and that he shuld not receyue mo-
y for spirituall thynges, but they wyl, that
ere shoulde be no Pope nother good nor
dde. This is the pricke, this is the marke
ey shoote at, I say, we are in an euyl case.

## The xvij. of Julye.

### The same. L. Lippomanus. Legate.

I haue this daye receaued letters frō
Venece, whiche haue encreaced so-
crowde vpon sorowe. For one my be-
ory frende, writeth vnto me, that the
ate of the seruice, whiche I haue don here
d of the conuentions that I haue founde
these partes, chiefly with the sayd Coun
Palatine, comming to the eares of myne
norable lordes of Venece, their honours

be

be very sory complaisse and fauour of m
sayeng, that they be afraid, least I beyng
a Venetian, and of the blood I am of, th
Alemaines and pleakes will beleue, tha
the lordes of Venece them selues consen
to al my doynges, wherby thei may hereaf
ter bee partakers of the same hatred tha
they goe about to stere against the Pope
and perhappes, at one tyme or at an othe
of the selfe same daungers. And to saye th
truth, these men spread abroade very muc
y ow because I am a venetian, all thynge
please the venetians that I do, and that
would not doo it, if I knewe it shoulde di
please their honours.

To conclude, for all respectes, for the a
uancement of the cause and maters of ou
holy fathers holynes, for not encombrin
of my lordes of Venece with these rē, an
for the suretie of my life, it shal be wel don
to call me away hence. I wold gladly ha
ben called away by som other meanes, an
with some other honour: but patience, th
ges be at such a poynte, that I must thin
vpon my lyfe, and not vpon honour. I sha
lacke none hereafter, if I can escape hen
with life. Yet eftsones I commende me
to your honour. The xvii. of Julye.

The same Levvis Lippoma-
nus legate.

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